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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Production and Marketing Administration  
State College, New Mexico

NEW MEXICO

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

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No. 323

CLOSING DATE FOR MAKING LOANS - Grain and bean growers are again reminded of the closing date for completing loans or purchase agreements on their 1948 crops. Congress has directed the Commodity Credit Corporation to support the price of various agricultural commodities at 90 percent of parity and CCC has developed loan and purchase agreement programs for this purpose. There is a deadline date for completing these documents and growers are urged not to let the time slip away without securing this protection. December 31, 1948, is the final date for completing loans and/or purchase agreements on 1948 crop alfalfa seed, barley, pinto beans, oats, rye, and wheat. Don't let December go by without calling at the County ACA Office in \_\_\_\_\_ and getting full details.

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, Chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ County ACA Committee, suggests that farmers who do not need or want a CCC loan get price support protection by signing a purchase agreement with Commodity Credit Corporation. Under the purchase agreement program growers retain full control of their grain or beans but are protected in case of downward market fluctuations. County ACA personnel can explain both programs, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ added.

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POTATO GOAL DOWN FOR 1949 - A 1949 potato goal of 1,938,300 acres and a 60 percent of parity potato price support has been announced for 1949 by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The goal is about 200,000 acres less than the acreage planted in 1948. The support price is based upon provisions of the Agricultural Act of 1948.

The 1948 potato crop was supported at 90 percent of parity.

The total national goal for 1949 includes 1,233,100 acres for commercial production and 717,200 acres for non-commercial production of less than three acres per farm. The commercial figure will be broken down for states as a basis for county and individual farm goals within states.





Growers who conform to their 1949 goal figure will be eligible for 60 percent of parity loans. The 1949 commercial acreage goal for New Mexico is nine hundred acres.

The consumption of potatoes has dropped from 150 pounds per capita immediately after World War I to 127 pounds in 1946 and is currently estimated at the rate of 118 pounds per capita.

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ELECTED COMMITTEEMEN -- INFLUENCE FOR GOOD FARMING - The recently elected farmer committeemen who will administer the 1949 Agricultural Conservation and related programs in counties and communities will take office January 3, C. V. Hemphill, chairman of the New Mexico PMA committee announces.

A total of \_\_\_\_\_ committeemen have been elected this year to administer the 1949 farm programs in \_\_\_\_\_. This includes 93 county committeemen and \_\_\_\_\_ community committeemen.

According to C. V. Hemphill, these farmers who have been elected by their neighbors will administer the Agricultural Conservation Program and supporting activities in the counties. Through the conservation program they are key figures in the nation's efforts to encourage soil and water conservation to maintain current and future production.

They are in key positions to pass soil and water conservation methods along to their fellow farmers. They are familiar with both the conservation and production problems in local areas and therefore are in a position to help farmers adapt the Agricultural Conservation Program to local needs. They have available both the technical knowledge from agronomists and soil specialists and the practical understanding from their experience in farming.

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THE POPULATION AND THE LAND - The importance of widespread use of soil and water conservation practices is emphasized when the number of people to be fed from the land are considered, says \_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ county agricultural conservation committee.

The livestock producer thinks naturally of the carrying capacity of his land in terms of animal units but the real problem concerns the number of acres required to feed a person. It is only by keeping up the productivity of the land now under cultivation -- to maintain the human carrying capacity -- that the needs of an increasing population can be met.

There is hope, the chairman points out, that through conservation farming land is being made more productive. Erosion is being checked and soil built up to resist erosion. Water is being used to help grow crops instead of being allowed to carry away the vital topsoil.

In every agricultural county in the United States and in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands farmers are cooperating in the Agricultural Conservation Program, to keep the land from washing and blowing away and wearing out. Essentially, the chairman points out, this program is helping to maintain and increase the human carrying capacity of the land so that the people of this country may continue to have enough food.

"Under this program," says the chairman, "farmers are cooperating with the rest of the people of the country to make the land productive and to keep it producing. It's a consumers' program as much as it is a farm program."





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NEW MEXICO

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

IRISH POTATOES POPULAR LIVESTOCK FEED - New Mexico livestock feeders have purchased 125 carloads of Irish potatoes for livestock feed, according to C. V. Hemphill, Chairman of the State FMA Committee.

"These surplus potatoes, which are second grade, were purchased from Colorado farmers by the Commodity Credit Corporation under the potato price support program. They were sold for livestock feed in carload lots at 30 to 55 cents per hundredweight, depending upon freight charges," Mr. Hemphill stated. "We are finding," Mr. Hemphill continued, "that this new use of Irish potatoes accomplishes the following objectives which are beneficial to both producers and consumers:

1. Producers are protected from disastrous prices.
2. Inferior grades of potatoes are diverted from the consumers' market.
3. The feeding of potatoes to hogs, feeder cattle and dairy cows benefits the consumer by increased production of pork, beef and milk, all of which are in short supply.

"County FMA Committees are assisting livestock feeders in obtaining these potatoes," Mr. Hemphill concluded.

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ADDITIONAL FARM GOALS RECOMMENDED TO STATES - Additional farm production goals for 1949, recommended by the Department of Agriculture for consideration by States, reflect continued high consumer demands as well as the need for increased attention for better conservation of the Nation's farmland.

Increases are sought for milk production, chickens raised on farms, turkeys, stock sheep and lambs, sweetpotatoes, legume and grass seeds, and tame hay. Continued high-level production of summer vegetables is suggested. Somewhat smaller acreages are indicated for flaxseed and rice.





The national production goals for individual commodities are: Dairy, 120 billion pounds, about 3 percent more than 1948 estimated production; chickens raised for flock replacement, 700 million, a 10-percent increase over the number raised in 1948; turkeys, 35.1 million to be raised in 1949, 10 percent more than the indicated number in 1948; stock sheep and lambs, an increase to at least 30.5 million head by the end of 1949; flaxseed, 3,026,000 planted acres, 36 percent below 1948 planted acreage but 30 percent above the prewar 1937-41 acreage; rice, 1.6 million acres, 8 percent below the 1948 indicated acreage but 5 percent above the wartime 1942-46 average and 42 percent above the prewar 1937-41 average acreage; sweet-potatoes, 607,000 acres, 12 percent more than the 1948 harvested acreage; summer vegetables, 717,850 acres, slightly more than the 1948 harvested acreage; legume and grass seeds, substantial increases of most kinds; hay, 62,157,000 acres for harvest, about 3.8 million acres greater than the 1948 indicated acreage but only slightly larger than the acreage harvested during the war.

Goals previously recommended to States include wheat, rye, dry edible peas, winter cover crop seeds, winter vegetables, beef cattle, spring vegetables, hens and pullets, spring pigs, and potatoes. Remaining 1949 goals will be announced later.

Department officials point out that the large wartime expansion in the acreage of soil-depleting crops has meant a sacrifice of good crop rotations and, in some cases, the breaking of sod lands not suited for crop production over a period of years. From a soil-maintenance standpoint, a much larger proportion of the total cropland should be put in sod crops. Farmers in all areas are encouraged to increase seedings of grasses and legumes, which will be available for hay or pasture in 1950.

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LOVELAND OUTLINES NEED FOR CONSERVING SOIL - The United States cannot continue to give maximum assistance in raising the world's nutritional level unless we protect our productive resources, Albert J. Loveland, Under Secretary of Agriculture and U. S. delegate, recently told one of the commissions at the annual meeting of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

"We are anxious to make certain minor shifts in our productive pattern in the interest of better conservation," Under Secretary Loveland said, "but those shifts are in the direction toward which other governments as well as our own are pointing, toward more of the protective foods -- livestock products, fruits and vegetables, and less of the starchy foods.

"Furthermore, the change involved will be gradual and will take place over many years. Even when we achieve good conservation -- and I suppose we will never reach the ideal, we will still have much more grain and much more of many other agricultural items for export than we had before the war....

"The United States expects to do all it can to continue helping meet the world shortage of grains and other scarce foods....we are planning continued large acreages of grain crops with the expectation of large exports."

In connection with the long-range question of abundant production in the U.S., the Under Secretary said that the multilateral approach to commodity trade problems was infinitely better. He stated that the U. S. Government did not want to move in the direction of bilateral agreements or other government-controlled bulk contract sales.

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GRAIN LOANS, PURCHASE AGREEMENTS NEAR 300-MILLION BUSHEL MARK - Government loans and purchase agreements on 1948-crop wheat, oats, barley, grain sorghums, corn, and rye totaled almost 261 million bushels through October 31, reports the Department of Agriculture. Nearly 232 million bushels of this amount are under loans, and 29 million bushels are under purchase agreements.





Wheat loans cover more than 192 million bushels, with almost 150 million bushels stored in warehouses and more than 42 million bushels on farms. Wheat covered by purchase agreements totals more than 24 million bushels.

Only 997,604 bushels of corn had been put under loan as of October 31, with 353,233 bushels covered by purchase agreements.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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NEW MEXICO

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TRIGG LAUDS PMA TEAMWORK AT OPENING OF CONFERENCE - "From the local farmer committees and the farthest field office, at one end of our administrative structure, to the branches in Washington, at the other, we are operating as a team," Administrator Ralph S. Trigg told delegates at the opening session of the National PMA Conference in St. Louis.

"Today, we can review the developments of the past 12 months with a good deal of satisfaction. Administrative lines have been more definitely established and they have been clarified. Program planning and direction have been proved in operating experience," Trigg said.

The Administrator reviewed accomplishments in shipments of foodstuffs to foreign countries....more than 19 million 300 thousand tons during the 12 months ending last June 30. He pointed to prices and production as probable problems in the future. He said, "Even when everything possible is done to increase distribution, we know that there will still be need for major adjustments in our production pattern."

Trigg emphasized the need for conservation and said that the ACP program has accomplished much in recent years but the really big tasks lie ahead. He had high praise for the farmer committee system saying, ".....the committee system has turned out to be a marvelous training corps for leadership." He said that a quick check which is far from complete turned up more than 50 former committeemen or farmer fieldmen who have been selected for important positions in the Department of Agriculture and other federal and state offices.

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BRANNAN URGES IMPROVED PRICE SUPPORTS, MORE CONSERVATION - Price-support legislation should be reexamined and improved to make sure that it all ties together, Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan told the recent St. Louis conference of State and national Production and Marketing Administration officials.





Pointing to the fact that many farm prices have declined while operating expenses have continued to rise, the Secretary said that net farm income is down this year for the first time in 10 years.

"We must make sure that price supports really give protection against farm price declines that are out of line with the general price structure," he said. "In other words, we must be sure that supports don't merely chase after the actual market prices.

"I think we can work out a price support system that will help us maintain really safe reserves of basic commodities....I suggest that we may have to stabilize and encourage livestock production if we are to make safe reserves of grain a practical reality.....

"Our price support system is extremely important to farmers and to the public. But we must not expect to substitute support prices for fair market prices. Our objective is still fair market prices, with supports in the role of aiding us in reaching that objective and protecting producers when we fall short of the objective. We must remember our potato experience and beware of measures which tend to prevent necessary shifts in production.

"We can be very sure that any measure which fosters wasteful production over a period of years will not be tolerated by the general public, and I trust it will not be tolerated by farmers. On the other hand, we can expect people to understand that, as long as we take our chances on the long side instead of on the short side -- in order to make sure of plenty -- we will have some trouble with perishable commodities. We always have and always will, whether the Government is in the picture or not."

Secretary Brannan said that the purpose of conservation is to enable farmers to produce abundantly and profitably on a sustained basis, and that some of our scientists are challenging the narrower concepts of conservation with facts, figures, and logic. The Secretary quoted the head of the Department's Bureau of Plant Industry:



".....It is highly desirable on a great many farms in the South to introduce grasses and grass-like plants on sloping, erosive soil. Such a practice is popularly regarded as a soil-conservation practice. But to grow meadows and pastures, lime and phosphatic fertilizers are needed in substantial amounts. To use pastures and meadows in production, farmers need to have fences. Of course, they also need to develop herds of livestock. For optimum production in many places, the herd should be dairy cows. To operate a dairy herd effectively, farmers need facilities for cooling milk, milking platforms, and other structures. Now, in this sequence, where does one draw the line between 'conservation' practices and 'production practices'?"

The Secretary also quoted the BPI chief to the effect that farmers could have produced this year's record corn crop on one-third fewer acres just by using the know-how that has already been proved in practice. This would have meant more income and could have meant many more acres in grasses and legumes that are needed for soil improvement and maintenance and for efficient livestock production.

"These are some of the things we ought to think about," Secretary Brannen said, "as we plan to strengthen and expand our soil conservation effort.....It is our opportunity and responsibility to help build the strongest, soundest and best farm program that can be built -- a program that will serve the interests of all our people -- a program that contains within it better hope for the world."

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A SOIL LESSON FROM SWEDEN - "We must save our land to save our country."

That is the lesson that impressed itself on the mind of a 4-H member of the International Farm Youth exchange who spent 2 months on a farm in Sweden during the past summer.

The youth, Armin Samuelson of Topeka, Kansas, came back with the deep impression that the Europeans can give the American farmer several good lessons in crop rotations and the handling of the soil.

He reported that in Denmark he saw wheat fields that made 100 to 120 bushels of wheat to the acre. There the soils are tested and as much as 800 to 900 pounds





of nitrate fertilizers are applied to the acre.

In line with the objectives of the U. S. Agricultural Conservation Program, the 4-H boy reports that farmers of the European countries visited have learned how to maintain abundant production and at the same time save their soil.

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1949 FOOD PICTURE - Food consumption per capita in the U. S. next year probably will not change much from the 1948 average, which is 12 percent above prewar, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reports. Whereas consumption of food per person in 1948 has been at a lower rate than in 1947, food prices have averaged about 10 percent higher.

No significant weakening in either domestic or foreign demand for food appears likely, so retail food prices are expected to continue high through most of 1949. Food prices may decline in the latter part of the year as a result of expected increases in livestock products.

While European food production this year is materially higher than in 1947, in many areas it is still low relative to prewar and to population increases. The over-all export demand for American foods is not expected to show much if any decline, but less emphasis will be put on grains.

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FARM-STORED BEANS GET FULL SUPPORT PRICE - Farm-stored as well as warehouse-stored dry edible beans of the 1948 crop will be eligible for Government loans at the full support price, the Department of Agriculture has announced.

Under amended requirements, beans stored in eligible farm storage must be packed in suitable 100-pound bags and must grade No. 2 or better in order to be eligible for Commodity Credit Corporation loans at the full support level.

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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

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POTATOES FOR LIVESTOCK FEED - Over 200 cars of surplus Colorado potatoes have been purchased by New Mexico dairymen and other livestock feeders according to C. V. Hemphill, Chairman State PMA Committee. \_\_\_\_\_ cars of these potatoes have been purchased by \_\_\_\_\_ County feeders according to \_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ County ACA Committee. Our feeders are paying \_\_\_\_\_ cents per hundred pounds for these potatoes and are well pleased with results, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ said. (County ACA Secretaries: Fill in blank spaces.)

SMALL FARM A PROBLEM - It is the nearly one million "small scale farms" that provide the toughest problem. The annual value of the products of these farms is from \$500 to \$1,200. We do not know how many of these families have income from other sources such as investments and work off the farm by other members of the family. But even if we could exclude those who had income from other sources, it is safe to assume that a large group of these farmers have extremely low income.

In considering the problem of the small scale unit as an employment opportunity in agriculture, we must ask this question: If these farms are not large enough to produce large incomes, do they provide some of the farm families with a better income and greater satisfaction than they could get as hired laborers, either on or off the farm?

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FAMILY FARM CAN COMPETE - The desirability of the family farm, depends on whether opportunities to earn a satisfactory living actually are to be found on the smaller farms. The goal is pointless if family farms are unable to compete successfully with large-scale farms, or if small-scale farms merely mean poverty to their operators.

Available evidence indicates that the medium and large commercial family farm are competing successfully with larger units. These farms also are getting larger, at least in some areas. The equipment and techniques available and the type of farming followed tend to set the lower limits on the size of farm that can be operated with a minimum technical efficiency. If a family farm is big enough to achieve such a standard of efficiency, it can pay operating expenses and maintain the farm plant and at the same time provide an adequate living for the farm family.

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ROOM FOR ALL SIZES - American agriculture can continue to provide opportunities for a wide range of talents. There is room for both large farms and small farms for those to whom one or the other represents the best income opportunity. Agricultural policy and programs can help provide a favorable economic environment for the maintenance of the family farm as the chief business unit in American agriculture. Encouragement also can be given to part-time farming and homes in the country for those who earn most of their living in other occupations.

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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

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NO. 327

DRY BEANS PRICE SUPPORT PERIOD EXTENDED - Price support loans and purchase agreements on 1948-crop dry edible beans will be available to producers through February 28, 1949, instead of through the previously announced date of December 31, 1948, it was announced recently by the Production and Marketing Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

This extension of time has been made because processing facilities in some areas are inadequate to condition the crop properly by December 31. The 1948 crop of dry edible beans, estimated at 20,833,000 100-pound bags, is the second largest on record.

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FMA ADMINISTRATOR PRAISES FARMER-COMMITTEE SYSTEM - High tribute was paid the farmer-committee system at the National Conference of the Production and Marketing Administration meeting recently at St. Louis, Mo. Ralph S. Trigg, FMA Administrator, called the system "the very salvation of the national farm program," and said that possible ways to strengthen the committees -- at the State, county, or local level -- should be given every consideration.

The committee system, Mr. Trigg pointed out, has turned out to be a marvelous training corps for leadership. Besides developing very strong local leaders in every farm community in the country, the ranks of the local, county, and State committees and the farmer fieldmen staffs have been drawn on heavily for top administrative positions in public service agencies.

"A quick check which is far from complete," Mr. Trigg said, "has turned up more than 50 former committeemen or farmer fieldmen who have been selected for important positions in the Department of Agriculture or other federal and State offices. The list shows a United States Senator, two Congressmen, a State Governor, a member of the Federal Reserve Board, an agricultural attache in a United States





embassy abroad, a former Secretary of Agriculture, a former Under Secretary and the present Under Secretary of Agriculture, the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and many other national and even international leaders."

Among top administrative men staffing FMA were mentioned: Bill Crawley, former Alabama Chairman, now Assistant Administrator for Production; Elmer Kruse, former Chairman in Ohio, now Manager of the Commodity Credit Corporation; his Assistant, Harold Hill, former member of the State Committee in Wisconsin; Chet Downen, former Washington Chairman, now Chief of the Administrator's Fieldmen; Al Loveland, formerly Iowa Chairman and then head of FMA's Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch before moving up to be Under Secretary; Alvin McCormack, recently Idaho Chairman, now ACP Branch director. Other Branch Directors who came from the committee system include C. D. Walker of Oklahoma, Cotton Branch; Lee Smith of Nebraska, Grain Branch; and L. B. Taylor of Idaho, Price Support and Foreign Supply Branch.

In addition to this group of top staff men, three of the five members of the new CCC Board of Directors are former State committeemen: Al Loveland of Iowa, Carl Fry of Tennessee, and Glen Harris of California.

Besides their basic function in handling local administration of the ACP and acreage allotment programs, Mr. Trigg said that "the committees have proved their worth in many other ways. During the war, Government agencies turned to our committee system in repeated emergencies, and the committees took the jobs on successfully and without losing a step...And the committees keep right on doing outstanding jobs whenever they are called upon."

Recruiting top administrators from the farmer-committee system, Mr. Trigg explained, insures that top administrators will have the necessary background and experience and that the administration of farm programs will be kept on a practical basis -- that the fundamental interests of agriculture are all kept to the front in planning and directing programs and operations.





Farmers who have been elected to administer the Agricultural Conservation and related programs for 1949 are among the leading farmers of the State. Elections are held throughout the State each winter in which farmers name those who are to represent them on community and county committees for the coming year. Mr. Trigg said that it is the responsibility of farmers to see that this leadership in the farm program is kept strong and active. Through the elections, farmers have an opportunity to select the best leadership in the community and county.

He pointed out that many of the farmer-committeemen elected to administer the 1949 Programs have been elected by their farmer neighbors before. Their reelection is evidence of continued confidence in their ability to administer the programs.

In nearly every instance these committeemen spend only a few days each month in actual administration of the ACP, price support activities and related programs, but they are available at all times for quick action whenever required.

The farmer elected committeemen in each of the Nation's 3,030 farm counties and more than 30,000 communities serve as a direct link between the United States Department of Agriculture and the 5,800,000 farmers and ranchers in the country.

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12 YEARS OF ACP - The record farm production of 1948 is but a part of the return on the investment in conservation farming for the past 12 years, says \_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ county Agricultural Conservation Committee. "The Nation's assistance to farmers to help them carry out soil and water conservation practices is really paying off."

Conservation, of course, would not entirely overcome extremely unfavorable weather nor widespread losses from insects and disease but it does make possible increased yields from better strains, more efficient methods and improved insect and disease control. Without the right kind of soil conditions these other improvements would still be ineffective.



Under the Agricultural Conservation Program, the chairman points out, farmers of this country have in the past 12 years terraced 14,177,000 acres, about 700,000 miles; constructed 680,000 erosion and flood control dams on farms and ranches; planted 622,000 acres of trees, seeded 102,000,000 acres of crops on the contour; applied 185,947,000 tons of lime to 104,733,000 acres of farmland and applied 15,789 tons of phosphate fertilizer to 123,440,000 acres to make possible the growing of legumes for soil improvement and erosion control; established 62,214,000 acres of stripcropping for wind and water erosion control; and grew and plowed under 198,180,000 acres of cover and green manure crops to add organic matter and build resistance to erosion.

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SOILS AUTHORITY POINTS WAY TO ABUNDANCE - "Can the people of the world feed themselves?"

Dr. Robert M. Salter, Chief, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Research Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, in a recent address asked and answered the question in outlining the contribution of science to increased agricultural production and the effectiveness of the Agricultural Conservation Program in getting the best from research into operation within a short time.

He pointed out that since 1937 there have been material increases in all crops.

Calling attention to the significance of the increased use of lime, he said, "During the decade 1937 to 1946, farmers actually applied 3 times as many tons of lime as the total applied to American soils up to that time. That this use of lime, by favoring the growth of legumes, has had a significant effect in increasing the soil-building qualities of our meadows and pastures cannot be doubted."

After reviewing figures showing recent increases in farm production, he made this observation:

"I think it would be conservative to estimate that American farmers could have produced a  $3\frac{1}{2}$  billion bushel corn crop this year on one-third fewer acres, and





at the same time had more income and improved their soil, if they had made full use of the new production technology already proved."

Referring to the effectiveness of ACP he said:

"The AAA grants-in-aid program provides payments of cash, purchase orders or materials for single practices more or less directly related to soil conservation. A high proportion of farmers have been reached and there can be little doubt that many farmers have been convinced of the value of improved practices by having tried them under this program."

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